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# AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

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## INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL VEEODISK: AN EVALUATION STUDY

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### Introduction

The purpose of this evaluation project was to study a new information technology, the microcomputer-controlled videodisk, and to evaluate its potential for use in the orientation and educational activities of the National Agricultural Library (NAL). Supported by evaluation study funds, NAL contracted to create a laser videodisk from an existing videotape used by the Library for visitor orientation.

Another major purpose of the study was to develop a reasonable level of awareness and moderate expertise among NAL staff in the capabilities and use of this new information technology, which was just coming to the attention of librarians and information specialists in 1983. This was to be done by acquiring, utilizing, and evaluating a course authoring system, which would be used in developing an interactive program on the orientation videodisk and which the Library might be able to use in other information and education training situations. The final purpose of the study was to demonstrate the use of this new technology within USDA, and to stimulate interest in its possible uses by sister agencies.

### Background

Six years ago, in a previous organizational incarnation, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) became the major component of a unit called Technical Information Systems (TIS) within the Science and Education Administration of the USDA. Technical information units from both the Cooperative State Research Service and the Extension Service were transferred to TIS at that time. Shortly after the new organization was formed, a small contract was let to prepare a 20-minute videotape orientation program explaining the various functions of TIS. That videotape has been used ever since to orient visitors to NAL. Since the most recent reorganization, however, it has been necessary to explain away the outdated references to TIS and the like in the videotape each time it is shown. To alleviate this nuisance, a number of possibilities were considered ranging from complete refilming on the one hand, to transferring the tape to a microcomputer-controlled videodisk and writing programs that would mask the anachronistic frames from the viewer. The latter technique was selected for several reasons.

For example, the videodisk has several advantages over videotape. It permits interactive use allowing the user to jump quickly from a frame at one point on the disk to another with many frames intervening. This cannot be done so readily with tape as the tape must run through a "read" head from one point to another. While

this limits ready interactive use of tape, the videodisk thrives on it. Also, the 54,000 individually addressable frames on the disk, recorded as permanent "pits" or depressions in the record surface, are scanned by laser beam, so the disk does not wear under frequent use the way a phonograph record or videotape would.

Because the interactive videodisk medium seemed to meet the needs of education, orientation, and training better than most others, two contracts were placed with a Bethesda, Maryland-based firm. One contract let was to obtain a Computer-Assisted Instruction (CAI) authoring software package with a videodisk interface. The other was to make a master copy of the videodisk from our orientation tape, and to develop a pilot training program using the authoring software in conjunction with our videodisk.

In September 1984 the contractor delivered the following:

1. A videodisk on which the orientation videotape had been copied. The disk also included several hundred miscellaneous slides about NAL and its programs.
2. A microcomputer diskette containing "Preview" software controlling the videodisk player, allowing the user several viewing options. The menu-driven software also provided capability for manually indexing the videodisk by frame or segment.
3. A microcomputer diskette containing authoring software, providing the capability of creating frames of text on the microcomputer; enhancing them with color graphics, and relating them to frames and or segments on the videodisk.
4. A microcomputer diskette containing a simple pilot course, with a menu allowing access to selected segments of the orientation videodisk, while masking references to "Technical Information Systems."
5. A control board, which the contractor installed to link an NAL-owned IBM-PC with a composite color monitor and a Pioneer LDV-1000 videodisk player.

### **Evaluations Summary**

Orientation Videodisk and Its Courseware. The menu-driven orientation package drew a favorable reaction from the NAL public affairs specialist responsible for orientation activities, and from several groups of visitors who used it. Our staff member felt that the videodisk had certain advantages over the tape. It was easier to avoid unwanted information making explanations of anachronistic references no longer necessary, and new information could be added to the microcomputer diskette. The videodisk also allowed the visitor to proceed at his/her own pace and to view only those provided services that were of interest. A variety of individual needs could also be easily accommodated.



Visitor reaction to the videodisk was also positive. Users frequently elected to utilize the new option available to review selected segments. The technology itself proved fascinating to the user, and generated numerous questions. (In the guide's opinion, until the technology becomes more commonplace, it may continue to be the highlight instead of the information it offers.)

It should be noted, however, that the level of interaction utilized (menu selection from a number of continuous segments) was far less than what was possible if the full capabilities of the software for education and testing were brought into play. While the "talking heads" engaged in "show and tell" from our videotape did not inspire dissatisfaction in our visitors, a far different and more sophisticated approach, especially in the video portion, will be required for one-on-one training.

We must keep in mind, however, that the design of tutorial CAI lessons requires about 100 hours of preparation per hour of instruction, for experienced developers. The contractor obviously did not use this much time to develop our demonstration courseware.

Course Authoring Software. Our beginning point was that of unsophisticated users, who had learned and used different microcomputer software packages, but had never developed a computer-based course. Unfortunately, the limits on in-depth training, the complexity of the documentation, and lack of our immediate follow-up in developing additional courseware, kept us from developing the skills needed to use the software. Even though it was an authoring system, as opposed to an authoring language, it still proved too difficult for ready use by NAL project personnel.

To complicate the evaluation further, this field is in a state of constant flux. The context in which this course authoring software could be evaluated changed radically during the life of the project as the technology continued to improve. Other systems have developed concurrently which offer a number of useful features, available in relatively inexpensive, off-the-shelf software, not found in the contractor's developmental product.

Video Indexing Software. In order to author a course using a videodisk, it is necessary to be able to play it, stop it, and record frame numbers at the start and end of segments of interest. With this capability, one can index the disk in detail, returning to appropriate frames as the course is developed. The capabilities of the "Preview" software delivered by the contractor were explained earlier. While this is adequate for manual indexing, other software is now available (from another source) which permits indexing of frames or segments on the microcomputer as one views the disk. This software also permits searching the index disk to locate frames indexed by a given term or combination of terms. This computerized indexing and retrieval process would facilitate the authoring process greatly.

## Conclusions

The impetus for this study came from the need to update an orientation videotape. This has been done by having a contractor create menu-driven courseware which masked anachronistic references in the tape. However, orientation programs do not make full use of the interactive capabilities of the system. Our experience also seems to indicate that, while courseware can be written to operate effectively with existing video or stills, the optimum technique is to define and prepare the video content as part of the total process of creating the course. We also have learned that a significant amount of effort is required to produce even brief and amateurish video courses.

The broader purpose of the study was to evaluate this new technology in terms of its potential for use at NAL. We concluded that it has great potential, specifically for a proposed course teaching online access to the AGRICOLA database.

Another aspect of the study was to evaluate a course authoring system. We concluded that the software we acquired was not as user-friendly as other packages on the market at the close of the study, and did not have the broad capabilities offered by some others. In the learning and evaluation process, we did fulfill another major purpose, to develop a moderate level of expertise among the NAL staff--sufficient to prepare us to define a useful follow-on project, and to deal sensibly with issues as they arise and are carried out to a successful conclusion.

Finally, we hoped to stimulate interest in the use of the new technology, and believe that we have done so through an Extension staff member who has been kept informed of our work. We understand that he is preparing a proposal to Extension concerning the use of this technology.

In short, while we do not have in our hands a completely up-to-date and easily usable product, we have been able to evaluate the potential of this technology, acquire expertise, and stimulate others in Science and Education to work on its applications. Finally, we perceived an important immediate application at NAL--training researchers to use AGRICOLA online--and developed the knowledge required to implement it when funds are available.





## **NAL PROJECTS AND POLICIES**

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### **FIFL MEETINGS RESCHEDULED**

The Federal Interagency Field Librarians (FIFL) meetings, formerly held every year in November with Washington, D.C. alternating with field locations, will now be held every other year only, based on a recent decision by the long-range planning committee.

The meeting originally planned for Dallas/Fort Worth in November 1985 will not be held. Consequently, a joint land-grant/field librarian/NAL meeting will not be held this year.

Future FIFL meetings will be held in Washington, and in even-numbered years only. USDA field librarians may wish to make use of this information in drawing up their travel plans.

NAL plans to hold—probably in conjunction with FIFL—the joint land-grant/field librarian meeting every other year also. Land-grant librarians should watch for announcements for even-numbered years.

Meanwhile, please note that NAL has set aside time at SLA and ALA to meet and discuss matters of interest with land-grant and field librarians.

**SLA, Winnipeg, June 10, 5:30–7:30  
in Meeting Room 6 of the Winnipeg  
Convention Centre**

**ALA, Chicago, July 9, 2:00–5:30 (we  
don't have a room assignment for  
this meeting yet, but it should  
appear somewhere on the program)**

For further information contact John Forbes, National Agricultural Library, Rm. 204, Beltsville, Md. 20705, (301) 344-1563.



### **COOPERATIVE NURSERY AND SEED TRADE PROJECT**

A joint project has been undertaken by NAL, Cuadra Associates, Inc., and the Plant Variety Protection Office to catalog NAL's Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog collection. The goal of the project is to create records of each title for each corporate body on the OCLC cataloging system and then to convert OCLC records into expanded and fully searchable records which will be maintained in a local database on the NAL Alpha Micro "super" multi-user microcomputer.

The "in-house" database will be developed for the primary use of the reference staff, but will also be accessible to library patrons. Records will be added to that database by first downloading to the Alpha Micro those OCLC records which have been input by catalogers in the Serials Branch and then by adding additional information about each title in an expanded and simplified format using the STAR database management software system, a product of Cuadra Associates, Inc. Cuadra Associates is participating in this pilot project by developing additional software which will convert and reformat OCLC records and ready them for loading into the STAR database.

NAL has agreed to act as a beta test site for Cuadra's conversion program. A subset of the nursery and seed trade catalog collection was chosen for the test. If the test is successful, Cuadra Associates will market the conversion program to other libraries in the OCLC community who wish to participate, but who also wish to have full search and report capabilities using modified MARC fields in a local STAR database.

The Plant Variety Protection Office, a branch of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and a primary user of the catalog collection, is assisting NAL in design of the in-house database and with pulling and sorting catalogs prior to cataloging. The database being developed for NAL will provide for searching, retrieval, and report generation on selected OCLC fields, plus additional fields which are being added to serve particular NAL and user needs. The STAR database is being designed to answer a wide range of questions and to generate a variety of specialized reports such as:

--How many nurserygrowers (seedsmen) were engaged in business in the state of Maryland in 1959?

--Provide a complete list of wholesale nurserygrowers doing business in the U.S., sorted by States.

--Does Cooley Gardens put out a spring bulb catalog? Did they ever? By what title(s)?

--What was the name of Keystone Seed Co. in 1955? When did it change from Corneli Seed to Keystone? What is its name today?

--What are current addresses and telephone numbers for Northrup-King Seed Co.?

--What are the titles, NAL holdings and call number of all catalogs currently issued by Coker Seed Co.?

--What nurseries in Arizona and New Mexico specialized in cacti and succulents? Which of these are retail shippers?

--What is the most recently received catalog from the Joseph Harris Co. and what year was it received?

Responsibilities for this project are as follows:

General Coordination - Pam Andre, Chief, Information Systems Division, NAL

Software Development - Cuadra Associates, Inc. under direction of Judy Wanger, Vice-President

STAR Database Development - Henry Gilbert, Public Services Div., NAL, and Rose Broome, Plant Variety Protection Office, AMS

Database Testing - Jennie Brogdon, Henry Gilbert, Public Services Div., NAL

Cataloging - Sarah Thomas and Idalia Acosta, Technical Services Div., NAL

Technical Coordinators - Bill Feidt and Rich Kreiner, Information Systems Division, NAL

The catalogers are now creating OCLC records for titles held by NAL of

companies whose names begin with A or B, with dates from 1955 to present. An expected completion date of June 1, 1985, has been established for the initial cataloging effort. This set of about 200 titles will serve as a test of Cuadra's conversion program and of the STAR database. The test will be conducted by reference staff over the June-August 3-month period, after which NAL will report to Cuadra Associates on the design, efficiency, and usefulness of the software and of the database as a reference tool.

A contract is being let by NAL for cataloging the currently received catalogs from U.S. seed and nursery firms onto the OCLC system. After this task is accomplished, those records will be downloaded into the STAR system, and additional data will be added to the local database by key personnel in the Public Services Division.

C. Rose Broome, Examiner  
Plant Variety Protection Office  
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

#### FEEDER PIG VIDEODISK AVAILABLE AT NAL

All you ever wanted to know about feeder pigs is contained in an instructional, multimedia package entitled "Feeder Pig Production and Management." Produced by the Control Data Corp., St. Paul, Minnesota, the individualized package was developed for the Minnesota State Extension Service. It consists of several components including:

- textual material--The Pork Industry Handbook, several state extension and experiment station publications on pig production, an introductory manual, and a guidebook
- nine laser videodisks with 19 video-films
- three 5 1/4" floppy diskettes with 14 test game exercises

The introductory manual and guidebook lead the user through the 11 modules that make up the program. Topics such as health,



nutrition, housing and equipment, selection and breeding, gestation, farrowing, nursery, marketing, and record management are explored.

To take the set of courses you will need:

- a videodisk player (for CAV format) and a color monitor, to view the videofilms
- an IBM-PC or compatible computer to do the game-exercises (the floppy diskettes are also available from Control Data as PLATO activities for a CDC 100 terminal)

About 36 hours are required to complete all the modules.

This training program may be reviewed at NAL. Contact Robert Butler, Rm. 204, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md. 20705, (301) 344-1562, for information. It may also be purchased from: Control Data, Agricultural Products and Services, P.O. Box 1903, St. Paul, Minn. 55111.



#### USDA TO OFFER SINGLE-SOURCE DATA

A mountain of time-sensitive information currently available both electronically and in print form from several USDA agencies will be available July 1 from a single electronic source: Martin Marietta Data Systems of Orlando, Florida.

The new service will disseminate daily and weekly market reports from the Agricultural Marketing Service; crop and livestock reports from the Statistical Reporting Service; outlook and situation reports from the Economic Research Service, foreign agricultural situation reports, export sales reports, and foreign trade leads from the Foreign Agricultural Service; news releases from the Office of Information, and other perishable information.

Regular information and statistical material of a long-term nature—such as periodicals and other non-perishable publications—will continue to be available in their usual format and from their usual sources in USDA.

Most likely users are expected to be organizations that further distribute USDA information, such as commercial electronic information and videotex services, publishers, news services, farm organizations, and trade associations.

With the proper equipment, such as high speed modems, farmers and other individuals could also access the new service for a fee.

USDA won't be charging for the information. But users of the service will pay Martin Marietta Data Systems a minimum fee of \$150 a month for the basic service of accessing the information. Special hardware and software developed for accessing the system are available at an additional cost.

USDA and its cooperators, such as the land-grant universities and state departments of agriculture which use the service will pay the usual computer time-share fees, but not a monthly minimum.

For information about reports and releases contact News Division, Office of Information, Room 406A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone: (202) 447-4026.

To subscribe contact Joseph F. Freburger or Charles H. Rider, Martin Marietta Data Systems, 6301 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt, Md. 20770. Telephone: (301) 982-6792.



Copies of the newly compiled List of Microfiche at the National Agricultural Library are available free upon request. Send a self-addressed mailing label with request to Helen Kretsi, Special Collections, Room 301A, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705

## SUCCESS MARKS BOOK FAIR -- 2,000 SOLD

The popularity of the NAL Book Fair was underscored by the multitude of USDA book lovers who attended the 2-day event. Held at the Library building in Beltsville and the South Agriculture Building in Washington, D.C. on April 15 and 17, respectively, participants purchased over 2,000 books. The event was sponsored by the Associates of NAL, Inc. in recognition of National Library Week.



NAL employees and visitors search through the thousands of titles donated for the Book Fair. Childrens' books, novels, science fiction, and how to's were just some of the categories available to choose from.

NAL staffers Maria Pisa, Executive Secretary of the Associates, and Marilyn Jacobs, Public Affairs Specialist, show a fair-goer the handsome volumes that could be won in the raffle. Six lucky people were selected from the 1,200 entries. Proceeds will be used by the Associates of NAL in support of the various activities of the National Agricultural Library.







## **NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE**

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**ANDROPOGON GAYANUS KUNTH: BIBLIOGRAFIA ANALITICA.** Mariana Mejia M. December 1984. 176 p. Price unknown. Order from Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Apartado Aereo 6713, Cali, Colombia.

**APPLIED WEED SCIENCE.** Merrill Ross and Carole Lembi. 1985. 340 p. \$29.95. Order from agAccess, 615 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AGRICULTURAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES 1978-82.** 1985. Beltsville, MD, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library. 163 p. \$16.00 paper copy, \$4.50 microfiche. Order from NTIS, Identification Section, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Tel: (703) 487-4780. PB 85 187649.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS PUBLISHED BY CIAT AND CIAT SCIENTISTS: 1969-83.** S. Gomez V. 1984. 233 p. \$5.00. Order from Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Apartado Aereo 6713, Cali, Colombia.

**CARBOHYDRATE BIOCHEMISTRY AND METABOLISM.** Karla L. Roehrig. 1984. 205 p. \$45.00. Order from AVI Publishing Co., Inc., 250 Post Road E., P. O. Box 831, Westport, CT 06881.

**\*ESTIMATES OF UNITED STATES WOOD ENERGY CONSUMPTION 1980-83.** Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. of Energy, Energy Information Administration. 1984. 77 p. \$3.00. GPO Order No. 061-003-00409-1.

**\*FRESHWATER FISH POND CULTURE AND MANAGEMENT.** Peace Corps and Volunteers in Technical Assistance. 1984. 208 p. \$7.00. GPO Order No. 056-000-00013-5.

**\*GLOBAL COMPETITION, THE NEW REALITY.** Washington, D.C., President's Commission on Industrial Competitiveness. 1985. Vol. 1, \$2.75. GPO Order No. 003-009-00438-1. Vol. 2. \$11.00. GPO Order No. 003-009-00439-0.

**GPO'S DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PROGRAM: A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS.** Peter Hernon and Gary R. Purcell. 1985. 240 p. \$32.50. Order from Ablex Publishing Corp., 355 Chestnut St., Norwood, NJ 07648. Tel: (201) 676-8450.

**\*INTRODUCTION TO SOFTWARE PACKAGES.** Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards. 1984. 61 p. \$2.25. GPO Order No. 003-003-02569-1.

**\*JAPANESE AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICIES: SOME U.S. STRATEGIES.** Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. 1984. 22p. \$1.50. GPO Order No. 001-019-00338-3.

**LIBRARY AUTOMATION: A CURRENT REVIEW.** Peter Gillman and Silvina Peniston. 1984. 72 p. \$21.00. Order from Learned Information, 143 Old Marlton Pike, Medford, NJ 08055.

**LITERATURE SEARCHING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND AGRICULTURE.** Eileen Pritchard and Paula R. Scott. 1984. 174 p. \$29.95. Order from Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5077, Westport, CT 06881.

**MARKETING FOR LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION AGENCIES.** Darlene E. Weingand, ed. 1984. 138 p. \$24.50. Order from Ablex Publishing Corp., 355 Chestnut St., Norwood, NJ 07648. Tel: (201) 767-8450.

**\*NBS SOLAR COLLECTOR DURABILITY/RELIABILITY TEST PROGRAM: FINAL REPORT.** Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Center for Building Technology. 1984. 150 p. \$5.50. GPO Order No. 003-003-02611-5.

**PLANTS THAT MERIT ATTENTION: VOLUME I - TREES.** The Garden Club of America. 1984. 360 p. \$44.95. Order from agAccess, 615 Merchant Street, Vacaville, CA 95688.



\*PROTECTING THE NATION'S GROUNDWATER FROM CONTAMINATION. U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment. Vol. 1. 1984. 252 p. \$7.50. GPO Order No. 052-003-00966-8. Vol. 2, Appendices. 1984. 270 p. \$7.50. GPO Order No. 052-003-00974-9.

ROOT ROT OF SNAP BEANS IN NEW YORK. George S. Abawi, et al. 1985. Bulletin No. 110. \$3.00. Order from Mailing Room, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Jordan Hall, Geneva, NY 14456.

SCIENTIFIC AND COMMON NAMES OF TROPICAL FORAGE SPECIES. Mariano Mejia M. July 1984. 75 p. Price unknown. Order from Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT), Apartado Aereo 6713, Cali, Colombia.


\*TO PRESERVE THE SENSE OF EARTH FROM SPACE. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. 1984. 55 p. \$2.50. GPO Order No. 052-003-00968-4.

USMARC FORMAT FOR HOLDINGS AND LOCATIONS. 1985. Loose-leaf publications. \$10.00. Order from Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20541.

\*USUAL PLANTING AND HARVESTING DATES FOR U.S. FIELD CROPS. Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Statistical Reporting Service. 1984. 78 p. \$3.00. GPO Order No. 001-000-04416-8.

\*WILDLIFE REVIEW. Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. 1985. Quarterly. Subscription \$33.00. GPO Order No. 724-007-00000-7.

\*YOUR MONEY'S WORTH IN FOOD. Washington, D.C., U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Human Nutrition Information Service. 1984. 39 p. \$2.25. GPO Order No. 001-000-004431-1.


\*Order from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Tel: (202) 783-3238. 

## SURPLUS PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following publications are surplus to the needs of the National Agricultural Library's collection. They will be made available to any interested organization that regularly sends free publications to NAL. This includes most Federal, land-grant, and agricultural research institutions as well as many others. Foreign institutions will need to provide a U.S. mailing address or make other special arrangements with U.S. sources for shipment of material.

If interested, please write to: National Agricultural Library, USDA, Attn: Collection Development, Room 204, Beltsville, MD 20705, or call Leslie Kulp, (301) 344-1562.

1. Biochemische Zeitschrift - v. 1, 1906 - v. 319, 1949 (bound).
2. Bulletin de la Societe Chimique de France - 1946-81 (bound; 1982 unbound; Feb. 1970 and Mar.-Dec. 1977 missing).
3. Bulletin de la Societe Chimique de France. 4th Series - v. 1, 1907 - v. 28, 1920 and v. 31, 1922 - v. 54, 1933 (bound).
4. Bulletin de la Societe Chimique de France. 5th Series - v. 1, 1934 - v. 11, 1944 (bound).
5. Contributions from Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Inc. v. 1, 1925 - v. 22, 1964 (bound, plus 14 separate issues of v. 24).
6. Comptes Rendue de la Societe de Biologie et de ses Filiales - v. 144, 1950 - v. 156, 1962 (bound).
7. Journal of Applied Physics - v. 1, 1931 - v. 20, 1949 (bound).

Note: In the last issue of ALIN, it was mistakenly announced that the Bibliography of Agriculture was available from the Western Regional Research Center. It should have read that a complete set of Biological Abstracts is available (volume 1926/7 to volume 70, 1980). For this item only, contact Rena Schonbrun, Library, WRRRC, USDA, Berkeley, CA 94710 or call (415) 486-3351. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused the reader. 



## AGRICULTURE DATEBOOK

June 2-6: INFORMATION FOR FOOD. VII World Congress of the International Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists. Ottawa, Canada. Contact: Canadian Planning Committee, IAALD 1985, Room 249, Sir John Carling Blvd., Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Canada, K1A, OC5.

June 8-13: SLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Winnipeg, Canada. "The Information Specialist: A Bridge to the New Communications." Co-sponsored by CASLIS. Contact: Barbara Palajian, Manager of Conferences & Exhibits, SLA, 235 Park Ave., S., New York, NY 10003. Tel: (212) 477-9250.

June 12-14: COUNCIL ON BOTANICAL & HORTICULTURAL LIBRARIES 17TH ANNUAL MEETING. Park Lane Hotel, Ottawa, Ont., Canada. Contact: Eva Gavora, Plant Research Library, Agriculture Canada, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa K1A OC6, Canada. Tel: (613) 996-1665, Ext. 225.

June 19-21: FIFTH CONFERENCE ON MICROCOMPUTERS IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING. Washington, D.C. Contact: Society for Applied Learning Technology, 50 Culpepper Street, Warrenton, VA 22186. Tel: (703) 347-0055.

June 22-28: AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS IN EDUCATION (ACE). University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Theme: "Frontiers '85." Contact: Jim Smith, Extension Editor, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99701. Tel: (907) 474-6364.

June 23-27: ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION. Opreyland Hotel, Nashville, TN. Contact: (202) 223-4080.

July 6-11: ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Chicago, IL. "Forging Coalitions for the Public Good." Contact: Walter Bruegger, Conference Manager, ALA, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Tel: (312) 944-6780, Ext. 357.

July 14-16: NURSERY GROWER'S EXPO. Orlando, FL, Sheraton Twin Towers. Contact: American Association of Nurserymen, 1250 I Street, N.W., Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005.

August 4-7: 40TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA. St. Louis, MO. Contact: Walt Peechatka, 7515 Northeast Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50021. Tel: (515) 289-2331.

August 7: AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE. Ames, IA. Speaker: USDA Assistant Secretary Orville Bentley. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

August 18-24: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (IFLA) GENERAL CONFERENCE. Chicago, IL. Contact: Robert P. Doyle, IFLA '85 Coordinator, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Tel: (312) 944-6780.

August 21-23: SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON INTERACTIVE VIDEODISC IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING. Washington, D.C. Contact: Society for Applied Learning Technology, 50 Culpepper Street, Warrenton, VA 22186. Tel: (703) 347-0055.

August 25-September 1: 3RD INTERNATIONAL PROTEA CONFERENCE AND 1ST INTERNATIONAL PROTEA RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM. Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. Contact: Conference and Symposium Secretariat, Private Bag X5013, 7600 Stellenbosch, Republic of South Africa.



**AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES** provides a channel of communication to technical information specialists, librarians, extension workers, researchers, and scientists on agricultural information activities. It is published monthly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705. Maria G. Pisa, Editor, Marilyn M. Jacobs, Assistant Editor. (Tel: 301-344-3937).





United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Library  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
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BULK RATE  
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## ASSOCIATES NAL, INC.

### ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 18, 1985

Dr. Albert A. Piringer, Chairman, Horticultural Science Institute, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting and luncheon of the Associates NAL, Inc. on July 18, 1985, to be held at the Holiday Inn, I-95 and U.S. 1, Beltsville, Md. Dr. Piringer's novel slide presentation, "Phytophilately: Horticulture in the Mail," will show a lively and entertaining approach to stamp collecting. Cost of the luncheon is \$12.00 per person. Reservations should be sent to the Executive Secretary, Associates NAL, Inc., Room 203, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705. Deadline for reservations is July 12.

#### AGENDA

- 11:30-12:30      Cash Bar
- 12:00-1:00      Luncheon Served:  
Chicken Terriayki  
Tossed Salad  
Broccoli Spears  
Rice Pilaf  
Carrot Cake, Beverage
- 1:00              Guest Speaker

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I will attend the Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Associates NAL, Inc. on July 18, 1985.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NO.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NO. ATTENDING

Enclosed is my check for \$12 to cover the cost of the luncheon. Final deadline for luncheon reservations is July 12, 1985.

